

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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R 150844Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8647

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN

REF: STATE 080898 & STATE 121507

I. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE OF GOJ ADVISED THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS REGARDING THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS FOR SALE IN JAPAN. THESE REGULATIONS CURRENTLY APPLY TO THE PRODUCTS, LISTED BELOW, MANUFACTURED OR PROCESSED IN JAPAN OR IMPORTED TO JAPAN. THE DATES OF MANUFACTURE OR PROCESS OF THE DOMESTIC PRODUCTS (THE DATES OF IMPORT IN CASE THE DATES OF MANUFACTURER OR PROCESS OF IMPORTED PRODUCTS ARE UNKNOWN) MUST BE CLEARLY INDICATED IN JAPANESE CHARACTERS ON THE PRODUCTS.

1. MARGARINE.
2. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (THOSE CONTAINING OVER 1 V/V PERCENT OF ALOCOHOL.
3. NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.
4. HAM, SAUSAGES AND BACON.

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5. FISHMEAT HAM, FISHMEAT SAUSAGES AND WHALEMEAT BACON.
6. BEANS AND PEAS CONTAINING CYANIC COMPOUNDS.
7. FROZEN FOODS PACKED IN APPROPRIATE SANITARY CONTAINERS (MANUFACTURED OR PROCESSED EXCLUDING HAM, SAUSAGES, BACON, CORNED BEEF, LUNCHEON MEAT, WHALEMEAT PRODUCTS, FISH

PASTE PRODUCTS AND BOILED OCTOPUS), CUT FRESH FISHMEAT AND SHUCKED SHELLFISH (EXCEPT FRESH OYSTERS).

8. IRRADIATED FOOD PRODUCTS.

9. FOOD PRODUCTS (EXCEPT NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, HAM, SAUSAGES, BACON, CORNED BEEF, LUNCHEON MEAT, WHALEMEAT PRODUCTS AND FISH PASTE PRODUCTS), PACKED IN AIRTIGHT CONTAINERS AND STERILIZED WITH PRESSURE-HEATING AFTER THEY WERE SEALED COMPLETELY.

10. FOLLOWING LISTED FOOD PRODUCTS PACKED IN SANITARY CONTAINERS EXCEPT THOSE IN ITEMS NOS. 1 THROUGH 9.

A. FRESH MEAT, FRESH OYSTERS, UNCOOKED NOODLES (INCLUDING THOSE BOILED), INSTANT NOODLES, "BENTOH" (LUNCH INCLUDING SANDWICHES, ETC), PREPARED BREAD (THOSE CONTAINING SALAD AND/OR OTHER SIDEDISHES), DELICATESSEN (SIDEDISHES), FISH PASTE PRODUCTS AND UNBAKED CAKE.

B. PROCESSED PRODUCTS EXCEPT THOSE LISTED IN ITEM NO. 10-A.

II. FOR THE FOLLOWING DOMESTICALLY MANUFACTURED OR PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS LISTED IN THE ITEMS NOS. 1 THROUGH 10, THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE CAN BE INDICATED BY CODE (COMBINATION OF ARABIC FIGURES AND ROMAN LETTERS) AS SPECIFIED IN THE EXAMPLE NO. 2-EXPLANATIONS 1 THROUGH THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF 3, JP 5027 OF JUNE 12, 1975. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THOSE IMPORTED INTO JAPAN. HOWEVER, IN CASE THE DATES OF MANUFACTURE

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OR PROCESS OF THE PRODUCTS ARE NOT INDICATED BY THE SAME ACCEPTABLE CODING METHODS AS SPECIFIED ABOVE, THE DATES OF IMPORT IN FULL JAPANESE MUST BE INDICATED ON THE STICKERS AFFIXED TO EACH PRODUCT.

1. CANNED PRODUCTS IN ITEMS NOS. 1 AND 3.

2. PRODUCTS PACKED IN CANS, BOTTLES, BARRELS OR JARS IN ITEMS NOS. 4, 5, 9 AND 10.

III. THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE FOR THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS, MANUFACTURED OR PROCESSED IN JAPAN, ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE INDICATED ON THE PRODUCTS. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THOSE IMPORTED TO JAPAN.

1. THE PRODUCTS PACKED IN GLASS BOTTLES (EXCEPT THOSE WITH PAPER LIDS ON) OR PACKED IN POLYETHYLENE CONTAINERS IN ITEMS NOS. 2 AND 3.

2. PRODUCTS LISTED IN ITEM NO. 10-B (EXCEPT THOSE PACKED IN CAN, BOTTLE, BARREL OR JAR).

3. THE FOOD PRODUCTS, WITH TOTAL PRODUCT PACKAGE DIMENSION LESS THAN 30 SQUARE CM, LISTED IN THE ITEM NO. 10-B AND DESIGNATED BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE OF GOJ.

IV. THE MHW FURTHER ADVISED TAHAT THE ABOVE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR OVER 20 YEARS DURING WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MODIFICATIONS TO THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH APPLY TO CERTAIN PRODUCTS. SINCE THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UNCODED DATES OF MANUFACTURE/PROCESS OR IMPORT WILL EQUALLY APPLY TO BOTH DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED PRODUCTS, THE RATIONALE FOR THE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE TO PROVIDE GENERAL CONSUMERS WITH CERTAIN CRITERIA REGARDING THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE PRODUCTS BY CLEARLY INDICATING THESE DATES ON THE PRODUCTS.

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V. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SIMILAR COMPLAINTS BY U.S. EXPORTERS OR OTHER COUNTRIES EXPORTERS. LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE ANY MORE STRINGENT THAN THOSE REQUIRED BY U.S. OR OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
MANSFIELD

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Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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